announcements as un-addressed mail. Direct Post is another business segment that has become a successful revenue stream in many Postal Systems.

The existing products/services are systematically marketed by establishing a separate Marketing mechanism in the Business Development and Marketing Directorate as well as in all the States across the country. The Department is also seeking to optimally utilise the existing manpower by redeploying them to meet the emerging work requirement.

Annual Spectrum Charges

2543. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI recommended for lowering the ceiling of annual spectrum charges payable by service providers to Government from the existing 6 per cent to 4 per cent on annual gross revenue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has also recommended for constitution of Group of Ministers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in what manner, Government are going to ensure availability of adequate spectrum to achieve the target of 20 million mobile subscribers by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In para 3.9.3 of their recommendations on Spectrum Related Issues, the TRAI has recommended the following.

"In view of the gravity of the situation in regard to spectrum availability for various operators even to the short term of 2007 to meet the targets set by the Government for Cellular telephones and at the same time the nearly insurmountable difficulties faced by Defence in vacating the spectrum in such a short time frame, we strongly recommend immediate constitution of a group at the level of Ministers of the Union Government assisted by professionals from Defence, Department of Telecom and TRAI to draw up

a detailed time bound step-by-step programme and monitor its implementation. The mandate of the Group would have to include identification of alternative band, assessing and making available requisite funds and assisting users on procedural aspects of quick procurement and installation of new equipment. This activity has to be taken up on war footing to be able to meet the Government objectives of growth in telecom services."

(d) Adequate spectrum to achieve the target of 200 million mobile subscribers by 2007 is sought to be made available including by release of necessary spectrum from existing users through coordination/relocation.

Reduction of pulse rate

2544. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL, Delhi has since reduced telephone pulse rate between Delhi and towns of NCR namely Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon from 3 minutes to 2 minutes, which is against the concept of National Capital Region, which stipulates that the whole region be treated as one city;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct MTNL, Delhi to revert to the earlier arrangement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reduction in pulse rate for calls to these cities from Delhi was necessitated to offset the loss being caused to MTNL in complying with Interconnection Usage Charges regime.

Criteria for nomination of member of TAC

2545. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for nomination of members for TACs of Telecom district;